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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings and versions:

1-24. (canceled).

- 25. (currently amended): A method for quantitating <u>replication defective</u> alphavirus replicon particles comprising:
 - a) providing a population of packaging cells;
- b) contacting said packaging cells with said <u>replication defective</u> alphavirus replicon particles under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for said cells to be infected with said <u>replication defective</u> alphavirus replicon particles;
- c) incubating said infected packaging cells under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for production of progeny of said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles;
- d) enumerating the number of resulting plaques, thereby quantitating said <u>replication</u> <u>defective</u> alphavirus replicon particles.
- 26. (currently amended): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express all structural proteins necessary for production of <u>progeny of said replication</u> <u>defective</u> alphavirus replicon particles.
- 27. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells comprise at least one expression cassette expressing an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein.
- 28. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein from distinct expression cassettes.
- 29. (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein said at least one expression cassette expresses E1 and E2 glycoproteins.
- 30. (previously presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of overlaying said infected cells with a layer of agarose.
 - 31. (canceled).